

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05  
/116 W

-----060207 191654Z /43

R 191621Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4959  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, GW, SF, PEPR  
SUBJECT: DGB METALWORKERS UNION PRESIDENT REPORTS ON  
HIS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) BONN 00309; (B) BONN 21053 (1977); (C) BONN  
21333 (1977); (D) JOHANNESBURG 0032; (E) PRETORIA  
7093 (1977)

SUMMARY: AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A TWO WEEK TRIP TO  
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SOUTH AFRICA, DGB METALWORKERS UNION (IG METALL) PRESI-  
DENT EUGEN LODERER, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION (IMF), GAVE AN  
ACCOUNT ON HIS EXPERIENCES AND IMPRESSIONS AT A PRESS  
CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT ON JANUARY 16. HE ADVOCATED  
CONTINUED POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
GOVERNMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, BUT

WARNED AGAINST AN ECONOMIC BOYCOTT WHICH WOULD PROVOKE  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE REPRESSION  
AGAINST BLACKS. END SUMMARY.

1. LODERER SAID THAT THE IMF WILL CALL UPON ITS MEMBER  
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EC COUNTRIES TO URGE THEIR GOVERN-  
MENTS TO ADHERE TO THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MULTI-  
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA  
WHICH IS AIMED AT THE REMOVAL OF APARTHEID. THE IMF  
ALSO INSISTS UPON THE RECOGNITION OF BLACK LABOR OR-  
GANIZATIONS AND THEIR RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN FREE COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING.

2. LODERER STATED THAT THE IMF DELEGATION HAD LEFT  
SOUTH AFRICA "NOT WITHOUT HOPE FOR PEACEFUL PROGRESS  
TOWARD OVERCOMING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION." HIS VISITS  
IN GERMAN SUBSIDIARIES OF SIEMENS, VOLKSWAGEN, DAIMLER-  
BENZ AND MANNESMANN OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD  
CONVINCED HIM THAT WORKERS HAD BEEN INTEGRATED INTO  
THE PRODUCTION PROCESS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE AND  
COLOR, THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK  
HAD BEEN LARGELY, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY, REALIZED,  
AND THAT THE WORKING CONDITIONS ARE "LARGELY IN LINE  
WITH THOSE IN THE FRG." RACIAL SEGREGATION STILL  
EXISTS, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LODERER, IN FACILITIES  
SUCH AS CANTEENS AND WASHROOMS. THE EXPLANATION GIVEN  
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TO HIM WAS THAT ALL COLORS WISHED THIS SEGREGATION.

3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH COMPANY MANAGERS, IT HAD  
BECOME OBVIOUS THAT THERE WAS A TREND TOWARD EQUAL  
TREATMENT OF BLACK, COLORED AND WHITE WORKERS, NOT  
ON MORAL GROUNDS, BUT FOR THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF  
THE COMPANIES WHICH WANTED TO FULLY UTILIZE THE  
AVAILABLE COLORED AND PARTICULARLY THE BLACK MANPOWER  
POTENTIAL. LODERER CONTINUED THAT MANAGEMENT IS  
COMING AROUND TO THE BELIEF THAT THE HIGH POLITICAL

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RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA CAN  
ONLY BE REMOVED BY GRADUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS  
FOR ALL COLORS.

4. LODERER ADMITTED THAT RESISTANCE TO VOCATIONAL  
UPGRADING OF BLACK PEOPLE AND THEIR TRAINING UNDER  
EQUAL STANDARDS ALSO COMES FROM THE WHITE TRADE UNIONS  
WHICH FEAR COMPETITION FROM THE BLACKS. THE SYSTEM  
OF JOB RESERVATION BASED ON LAW OR COLLECTIVE AGREE-  
MENT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL  
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AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WHICH PREVENTS BLACKS FROM  
HAVING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, LODERER EMPHASIZED.

5. LODERER REAFFIRMED HIS PREVIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT  
AN "OVERALL ECONOMIC BOYCOTT" OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH,  
IN HIS VIEW, COULD PROVOKE AN INCREASE IN REPRESSION  
AGAINST BLACKS AND WOULD ALSO JEOPARDIZE JOBS IN THE  
FRG. FOUR THOUSAND JOBS WOULD BE AFFECTED IN THE  
VOLKSWAGEN PLANT IN HANNOVER ALONE IF SHIPMENTS OF

SUPPLY PARTS TO THE ASSEMBLY PLANT IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD TO BE STOPPED, LODERER WARNED. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE A BOYCOTT ONCE AND FOR ALL, BUT HE CONSIDERS IT AS AN ULTIMATE MEANS TO BE USED ONLY IF THE COMPLETE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH A BOYCOTT IS GUARANTEED BEFORE A BOYCOTT IS IMPOSED.

6. CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY VOLKMAR KOEHLER, COMMENTING ON LODERER'S TRIP IN THE UNION-PRESSEDIENST, LAUDED LODERER'S STATEMENTS AS BEING "IN FULL AGREEMENT" WITH THE POSITION PAPER OF THE CDU/CSU FACTION ON SOUTH AFRICA POLICY. KOEHLER WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY LODERER'S SHARP REJECTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY OPPOSING AN ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WOULD ALSO JEOPARDIZE JOBS IN THE FRG. STOESEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BONN 309, 78 BONN 21053, 78 BONN 1977  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DGB METALWORKERS UNION PRESIDENT REPORTS ON HIS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PEPR, GE, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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